

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 6, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 16

Introduced by Assembly Member Bonilla

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alejo, Ammiano, Atkins, Bloom, Blumenfield, Bocanegra, Bonta, Bradford, Brown, Buchanan, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chesbro, Cooley, Daly, Dickinson, Eggman, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gordon, Gray, Roger Hernández, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Lowenthal, Medina, Mitchell, Morrell, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Ting, Torres, Weber, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

April 1, 2013

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16—Relative to Preschool for All in California.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 16, as amended, Bonilla. State preschool programs: early learning.

This measure would urge the Congress of the United States to enact President Barack Obama's budget proposal to increase funding for preschool and early learning. This measure would also urge the Superintendent of Public Instruction to prepare a plan for making California competitive for future increases in federal funding to preschool and early learning programs.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, To be competitive in the 21st century global
2 economy, California must have a dynamic and educated workforce;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, To strengthen and grow the middle class, California
5 must broaden investments proven to prepare students for college
6 and careers, and proven to create economic opportunity; and

7 WHEREAS, Research by a Nobel Laureate economist shows
8 that every dollar invested in high-quality early education can save
9 more than \$7 later on, by boosting grade level proficiency and
10 graduation rates, increasing earned income and job stability,
11 reducing teen pregnancy, and reducing violent crime; and

12 WHEREAS, Study after study, over 100 in the United States
13 alone, shows that preschool significantly benefits children's school
14 success; and

15 WHEREAS, Research has shown that the early years in a child's
16 life, when the human brain is forming, represent a critically
17 important window of opportunity to develop a child's full potential
18 and shape key academic, social, and cognitive skills that determine
19 a child's success in school and in life; and

20 WHEREAS, During the preschool years, children not only
21 develop core academic knowledge in preliteracy and early math,
22 but they develop critically important learning skills, such as paying
23 attention, managing emotions, and completing tasks; and

24 WHEREAS, Research has shown that California's academic
25 achievement gap exists before children start school; and

26 WHEREAS, Research shows that students who start out behind
27 too often also stay behind, and those who are not reading
28 proficiently in third grade are four times more likely to not graduate
29 from high school; and

30 WHEREAS, In 2012, 52 percent of California third graders
31 tested below proficient in English-Language Arts and more than
32 30 percent are not proficient in Mathematics; and

33 WHEREAS, Since 2008, over 110,000 children have lost access
34 to preschool and child care programs due to \$1 billion in state
35 budget cuts; and

36 WHEREAS, Over 220,000 low-income three- and four-year-old
37 children who are eligible for the California State Preschool
38 Program or the federal Head Start program do not receive services;
39 and

1 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama in his 2013 State of the
2 Union speech called on states to partner with the federal
3 government to make sure every child, regardless of their parents
4 ability to pay, has access to high quality preschool; now, therefore,
5 be it

6 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
7 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully urges the
8 Congress to enact President Barack Obama's budget proposal to
9 increase funding for preschool and early learning; and be it further

10 *Resolved,* That the Legislature respectfully urges the
11 Superintendent of Public Instruction to prepare a plan for making
12 California competitive for future increases in federal funding to
13 preschool and early learning programs; and be it further

14 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
15 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
16 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
17 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
18 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
19 States.